

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR INQUIRY YEAR

1. **Pray, pray, pray!**
2. **Spend lots of time talking things over with your spouse and children**
3. **Do some reading on the diaconate:**

*Here are some good introductions to the diaconate:

Baker, Thomas. *I Like Being in Parish Ministry: Deacon*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2002.

Ditewig, William. *101 Questions and Answers on Deacons*. New York: Paulist Press, 2004.

Donovan, William T. *The Sacrament of Service: Understanding Diaconal Spirituality*. Green Bay, WI: Alt Publishing Company, 2000.

*Alt Publishing also has a great book for wives and families:

Mraz, Dottie. *Ministry and the Family of the Permanent Deacon*. Green Bay, WI: Alt Publishing Company, 1997.

*In addition, Alt Publishing is the publisher of *Deacon Digest*, a magazine published six times per year and covering a variety of topics relevant to diaconal life and ministry. You may want to subscribe or borrow copies from a deacon you know. Further information can be found at www.deacondigest.com, or by contacting the publisher at the following:

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4. **Visit with deacons and their wives**
5. **Get together as inquirers / families – for prayer and conversation**
6. **Call / e-mail / visit with the director**
7. **Visit with your pastor**
8. **Do VIRTUS training**
9. **Check out some websites on the diaconate:**

US Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/deacon/>

International: <http://www.kirchen.de/drs/idz/en/idz/index.html>

“Deacon’s Place:” <http://www.deaconsplace.info/>

(note: this is a private site and not every article/opinion there can be endorsed – and some items are dated)